

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the latest communications from the US Patent Office. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 8, 14, 16, 21 and 25 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the disclosed invention. In addition, Applicant has canceled claim 13. In light of the amendment to these claims, and the argument presented below, Applicant believes this application to be in condition for allowance, and requests appropriate action.

Claims 1, 14 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Nelson (USPN 6,347,027). Nelson discloses a method and apparatus for controlling an electric power distribution system including the use and coordination of information conveyed over communications means to dynamically modify the protection characteristics of distribution devices. Nelson also discloses the use of a power supply capable of converting 120V AC line power into 5V, 12V, and 24V DC power for the use of various functional blocks within a node of Nelson's invention. Nelson, FIG. 2. One of the functional blocks powered by the power supply is entitled "Digital I/O Interface," Nelson, FIG. 2, Element 216, which interfaces with a distribution switch via "Control Outputs," which are illustrated as relay outputs. *Id.* Logically, the output of one of these relays is powered by either the AC input voltage or one of the DC voltages generated within the power supply; i.e.; 120 VAC or 5V, 12V or 24V DC. See interplay of Nelson, FIG. 2, Element 222 and Element 216. However, Nelson never mentions the voltage level of the "Control Outputs" to be adaptable to different reclosers; for instance; by being selectable from the different voltage levels shown in Nelson's FIG. 2.

Instead, Nelson discloses an add-on board that can be interfaced to different reclosers through digital communications. Nelson, Col. 30, Lines 36-49 ("the interface between the add-

on board and the recloser is based *entirely* on digital communications.”)(emphasis added). To further clarify the difference between Applicant’s invention Nelson, Applicant has amended the independent claims of the application under consideration to require an interface to the trip and close coils, as opposed to “apparatuses,” of various reclosers having different control voltage requirements. Applicant reiterates that the disclosed trip and close interface of the application under consideration is entirely different from and patentable over the digital communications interface disclosed by Nelson.

The present office action points to two blocks of language stating that Nelson discloses “a convertible charging system for producing control voltages to control trip and close apparatuses of various reclosers, said various reclosers having different control voltage requirements.” Present Office Action, p. 2. However, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the referenced text in Nelson makes any such disclosure. The first referenced text is Nelson, Col. 6, lines 37-43. This text is reproduced below:

It is a primary aspect of the present invention to provide methods and apparatus having generalized algorithms (see generally FIGS. 3 and 6-8) for using and coordinating the use of information conveyed over communications to dynamically modify the protection characteristics of distribution devices (including but not limited to substation breakers, reclosing substation breakers, and line reclosers).

Nelson, Col. 6, lines 37-43.

Nowhere in the above referenced quote from Nelson is a “convertible charging system for producing control voltages to control trip and close apparatuses of various reclosers, said various reclosers having different control voltage requirements,” disclosed.

The next referenced text is Nelson, Col. 6, lines 58-67 and Col. 7, lines 1-3. This text is reproduced below:

Control computer 208 is connected to AC waveform processor 212. AC waveform processor 212 is connected through field interface connector 214 to distribution line 202. This allows the processor to measure various critical parameters of the electricity on the distribution line such as, voltage and current, digitally convert them, and send them to the control computer for processing, communications or storage in memory.

Digital I/O interface 216 is connected to control computer 208, switch 204 and distribution line 202. Digital I/O interface 216 allows computer controller 206 to receive switch positions sensing information and other inputs, and to output control outputs to the switch.

Nelson, Col. 6, lines 58-67 and Col. 7 lines 1-3.

Nowhere in the above referenced quote from Nelson is a “convertible charging system for producing control voltages to control trip and close apparatuses of various reclosers, said various reclosers having different control voltage requirements,” disclosed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the current office action does not correctly characterize Applicant’s previous correspondence. Please understand that Applicant is not

arguing that the apparatus disclosed by Nelson is compatible with only one particular recloser. Rather, Applicant argues that the method of compatibility used by Nelson's disclosed apparatus (digital communications) is entirely different from the method of compatibility disclosed by the present application (different voltage levels presented to various reclosers' trip and close coils). Nelson never mentions interfacing to various reclosers with different voltage requirements, but relies instead on digital communications to interface with various reclosers.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, after review of the previous correspondence along with the further clarifications of this communication, Applicant respectfully submits this application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests issuance of a timely notice of allowance. However, should Examiner be of the opinion that further amendment or response is required; Applicant encourages Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below. Further, although no additional fees are believed to be due at this time, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd., Deposit Account No. 50-1039 with reference to attorney docket number (1444-0097).

Respectfully submitted,

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